



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

July 11, 2017

Dear School Division Superintendents:

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), in collaboration with the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (Foundation), administers the Virginia Youth Survey to monitor youth health risk and health promoting behaviors. The data gathered from this survey provides valuable information to assist state agencies and communities as they conduct health assessments, implement prevention programs, and apply for funding to reduce chronic disease in Virginia.

The Virginia Youth Survey is administered with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC randomly selects secondary schools to participate based on Virginia's school enrollment data. The CDC also provides validated survey questions for use in all states to allow for comparison. The survey should take approximately 45 minutes to administer, or one class period.

It is important that VDH and the Foundation continue to monitor the health risk and promoting behaviors of Virginia's youth. The data provides Virginia the opportunity to evaluate prevention efforts and provide services that prove to be the most successful.

In support of this initiative, and in compliance with the requirement for participation as outlined in the *Code of Virginia*, we urge each of the selected schools to fully support the administration of the Virginia Youth Survey. It is our hope that this collaborative effort will provide an efficient means to collect this important data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Hazel, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

William A. Hazel, Jr., M.D.
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dietra Y. Trent", written over a horizontal line.

Dietra Y. Trent, Ph.D.
Secretary of Education